

CHRIS JACOBS  
27<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, NEW YORK  
  
AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE  
  
BUDGET COMMITTEE



**Congress of the United States  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3227**

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November 19, 2020

Mr. Stephen Durrett  
Co-Chair  
International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence  
River Board  
550 Main Street, Room 10-714  
Cincinnati, OH 45202-3222

Dr. Geneviève Béchard  
Co-Chair  
International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence  
River Board  
234 Laurier Avenue West, 22nd Floor  
Ottawa ON K1P 6K6

Dear Mr. Durrett and Dr. Béchard,

I write in support of increased outflows from Lake Ontario during the 2021 winter season to mitigate the risk of flooding in shoreline communities on Lake Ontario.

As I have travelled through New York's 27th District, I have talked to innumerable constituents about the risk of property damage posed by flooding due to high water levels on Lake Ontario. This risk is made even more troubling by the economic conditions faced due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which is likely to hinder any response to flood conditions in the near future.

As homeowners, businesses, and local and state governments face the risk of additional flooding this coming year, I ask that the International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Board give full and fair consideration to strategies that could mitigate the risk of flooding in the coming months and balance the impacts of high water levels between communities upstream and downstream from the Moses-Saunders Dam.

Most urgently, I ask that you consider operating under 2020 winter deviation rules, which respect the I-limit but operate up to first tier F-limit from January 1 to February 28 and up to the second tier F-limit from March 1 to March 31. These deviations were successful in winter 2020 and could provide similar results for winter 2021.

I thank you for considering this request and look forward to learning more about the Board's deliberations for the upcoming year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Jacobs', with a stylized flourish at the end.

CHRIS JACOBS  
Member of Congress